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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,043	09/24/2003	Ivano Gagliardi	CM2700L	4999

27752 7590 07/03/2006

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
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CINCINNATI, OH 45224

EXAMINER

NUTTER, NATHAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1711

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/670,043

Applicant(s)

GAGLIARDI ET AL.

Examiner

Nathan M. Nutter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2005.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-18 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04-06.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

This application has been re-assigned to Examiner Nathan M. Nutter in Art Unit 1711. All inquiries regarding this application should be directed to Examiner Nutter at telephone number 571-272-1076.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-15 in the amendment of 6 July 2005 in response to the restriction requirement. Claims 16-18 remain pending.

Response to Amendment

In response to the amendment of 6 July 2005, the following is being placed into effect.

The rejection of claim 17 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, is hereby expressly withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook et al (US 6,465,379) or Beihoffer et al (US 6,140,550) each in view of Kimura et al (US 5,026,800) is hereby expressly withdrawn.

The following rejections are being maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Carlucci et al (EP 1 138 293).

Carlucci et al describe disposable, transparent absorbent articles that may comprise a liquid pervious surface, a liquid impervious surface and an absorbent structure comprised in between. The absorbent structure is provided by an absorbent core, Paragraph [0015]. Transparency of the article is at least 40% (see claim 8, page 11). The absorbent core can be a single layer entity or comprise several layers, Paragraph [0028], such as (a) a primary fluid distribution layer, (b) a secondary fluid distribution layer (c) a fluid storage layer, (d) a fibrous layer and (e) other components. Several absorbent materials are used to make fluid storage layer, including cellulose wadding, modified crosslinked cellulose fibers, absorbent foams, absorbent sponges, polymeric fibers, etc., Paragraph [0032]. Hydrogels, superabsorbent or hydrocolloid materials are added to the fluid storage layer, Paragraph [0033]. Further, note Paragraph [0025] for transparency.

Claims 16-18 therefore lack novelty.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Soerens et al (US 6,822,135) or Dutkiewicz et al (US 6,562,742), each in view of Kimura et al (US 5,026,800).

The reference to Soerens et al discloses the manufacture of a fluid storage material in which certain particles are secured to one another and/or to a substrate with a crosslinkable binder composition. Note column 1 (lines 8-11) and column 4 (lines 8-32). The reference teaches the use of superabsorbent particles that may have a diameter of between 50 to 800 microns at column 4 (lines 47-59). The binder employed may be composed of hydrophilic polymers. Disposable articles are prepared using the fluid storage material.

The reference to Dutkiewicz et al discloses the production of an absorbent structure comprising an upper ply and a lower ply. Each ply contains binder/s and superabsorbent particles. Note column 18 (line 59) to column 19 (line 40).

Neither of the above references teaches the use of an angle-lacking shape of super-absorbent particles, and a transparency value of at least about 50%.

The patent to Kimura et al discloses a water-absorbent resin wherein the shape is angle-lacking. Note column 2 (line 67) to column 3 (line 3).

It would therefore have been obvious to ensure that the super-absorbent particles in Soerens et al or Dutkiewicz et al possess an angle-lacking shape in order (a) to make easy for handling, (b) to improve absorbency and (c) to enhance absorption rate.

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With regard to the transparency “of at least 50%” recited in instant claim 17, it is the examiner’s position that one of ordinary skill in the art would know to make a certain portion of the article transparent or translucent as required by the user of that article. This can easily be facilitated with desirability of end-product characteristics.

Response to Arguments

Applicant’s arguments filed 6 July 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to the reference to Carlucci et al, it is pointed out that at Paragraph [0032], the reference recites a number of absorbent polymers, including creped-cellulose wadding, modified cross-linked cellulose fibres, absorbent foams, polymeric fibres, etc. As such, applicants’ argument is not deemed to be tenable.

With regard to the reference to Soerens et al, the various binders employed at column 4 (lines 1-32), are taught to be hydrophilic polymers.

With regard to the reference to Dutkiewicz et al, the various binders employed at column 6 (lines 1-30), including starch derivatives, are taught to be polymeric. Starch derivatives are notoriously known for water-absorption. Polyvinyl acetates, likewise, are typically water-absorbent.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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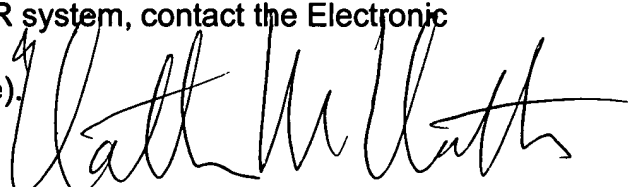
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan M. Nutter whose telephone number is 571-272-1076. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan M. Nutter", is positioned over the printed name and title.

Nathan M. Nutter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1711

nmn

9 April 2006